



FOXEARTH & LISTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 20th. January 2025 at 7.30pm in Foxearth Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs K. Holmes (Chair), K. Robson (Vice-Chair), S. Ham, M. Posen, BDC Cllr I. Parker and Kevin B. Money (Parish Clerk). There were also 4 members of the public present

001/2025 Chairman welcome and Announcements.

002/2025 Apologies for Absence were received from ECC Cllr P. Schwier

003/2025 Declaration of Interest to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda. Cllr K. Robson and Cllr S. Ham declared an interest in item 015/2025

004/2025 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Foxearth & Liston Parish Council
 To receive and agree the minutes of the last F&LPC meeting held on 18th. November 2024. **All Agreed**

005/2025 Essex County Councillors report – ECC Cllr P. Schwier. No report was given

006/2025 District Councillors report – BDC Cllr I. Parker

- Devolution – The Government published a White Paper on 16th December on devolution and local government reorganisation in 2 tier areas (ie areas with county and district councils). Devolution would see powers in areas such as transport, skills, housing and economic growth given to local authorities. Local Government reorganisation would see the abolition of District and County Councils which would be replaced by unitary authorities and a mayor. At an extraordinary Council meeting on Friday 10th January, Essex County Council decided to submit an expression of interest to the Government in the Devolution Priority Programme and to commit to a reorganisation of local government in Essex. ECC also included a request to postpone the ECC elections due to take place this May.
- Waste – Legislative changes have come into force requiring Councils to collect more recyclable material at the kerbside. Essex County Council have also introduced a new waste strategy with a tiered approach aimed at increasing recycling and reducing the amount of waste going to landfill. This strategy has been adopted by Braintree District Council. As a result of these changes, Braintree has been conducting a review of our waste collection. There have been three areas of focus; aspiration to increase recycling (our current recycling rate has flat lined and compares poorly with other councils), impact on Council finances and ease of use for residents. The review has looked at a number of options and has resulted in a preferred option. The most significant changes in the preferred option are that the grey bin will be collected every 3 weeks and the recycling sacks will be replaced by two bins, one for paper and card and one for other recyclates including bottles which will be collected on an alternate 2 week cycle. A consultation on the proposal has now launched and ends on 2nd March. I would be grateful for your help in publicising this consultation. No decisions have been made and we are keen to hear the views of residents on the proposal. The consultation can be found on the main Council website.
- Medium term financial strategy (a 4 year period) - This was considered by the Scrutiny committee (of which I am a member) and the Cabinet at meeting in the beginning of December. The Council is facing a budget gap of £731k for 2025/26 and a cumulative gap over the 4 year period of just over £3m. This is subject to clarification on government funding. The MTFS is made up of many items of expenditure and income. The Councillor Community Grants Scheme is proposed to continue for 25/26 and there will be no increase in charges for garden waste. The Council has already instigated a transformation programme to address the budget gap over the medium term based on 4 work streams; agile and flexible working, service reviews, asset management reviews and shared service and partnerships to look at reducing cost and increasing income.

- Local Plan – the Council has started the process of review its Local Plan up to 2041. Under government changes to how housing targets are calculated, the housing target for Braintree has increased to 1115 houses per year, an increase of 35% over the current target. The call for sites has already taken place and various evidence base documents have been produced. A document on Issues and Options was considered by the Local Plan subcommittee (of which I am a member) in December. A consultation on the document will commence on 20th January which will enable the public and other consultees to raise issues they want to be considered in the local plan and to comment on the vision and objectives of the plan. There will be a series of weekly meetings of the Local Plan subcommittee in May and June to allocate sites. I must stress that far more sites than are needed have been put forward in the call for sites.
- Affordable housing – we are on track to meet our affordable housing target of 250 per year.
- Healthcare – additional capacity for patients at the Elizabeth Courtauld surgery in Halstead will be provided at the Halstead hospital part funded by s.106 contributions. Work is due to start early in the new year.
- There is of course much going on across the whole of the District but I have tried to focus this report on matters which might be of relevance to you. Please get in touch if you have any questions on the report or anything else.

Cllr I. Parker then took questions from Councillors and residents.

007/2025 Public Participation Session

The Chairman will invite questions and observations from members of the public present.

A resident spoke about the frustration from ECC regarding the response from highways. A fatal accident avoiding pot holes is waiting to happen.

Cllr I. Parker left the meeting

008/2025 Councillor vacancies – update from the Clerk. No resident/s have submitted an application to be co-opted onto the Parish Council

009/2025 Flooding working group in Liston and Foxearth – update from the chair of the group
No update since the last meeting

010/2025 Footpath update – Cllr K. Robson
ECC has sent the SLA for 2025-2026.

011/2025 Highway issues
• **Speed indicator device update – Cllr K. Holmes**

The SID can be placed on private land. A contractor will charge £100 for erecting the post.

012/2025 Site Submitted to the Call for Sites for the Local Plan Review
The Granary Mill Road Foxearth - Housing/Self and custom build housing
Councillors to wait until BDC request a consultation

013/2025 Planning Application/s

24/02596/FUL & 24/02597/LBC - Land Adjacent Lapwing Cottages, Liston Road, Liston
Conversion of the existing Brick Barn, Old Mill, Stables and Store to create part two storey 4no. bedroom detached dwelling.

RESOLVED: F&LPC has no comment on this application

014/2025 Planning Decisions made by BDC affecting Foxearth and Liston. None received

015/2025 Grant application/s

a) Foxearth & District Local History Society for 2024-2025 £250

Cllr M. Posen proposed a grant to Foxearth & District Local History Society for 2024-2025 £250.

Cllr K. Holmes seconded. **All Agreed**

b) Foxearth PCC for 2024-2025 £750

Cllr M. Posen proposed a grant to Foxearth PCC for 2024-2025 £750. Cllr K. Holmes seconded. **All Agreed**

016/2025 Finance

a) To receive the Bank balances as at 31st. December 2024

Councillors noted the Bank balances as at 31st. December 2024

b) To receive the comparison of Actual against Budget 2024/25

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual against Budget 2024/25

c) Councillors to agree the December 2024 and January 2025 finances and to agree a transfer of any funds to meet the Parish Council's financial requirements. **All Agreed**

017/2025 Budget 2025/2026. Councillors to finalise the budget for 2025/2026.

Cllr K. Holmes proposed an expenditure of £11427 for 2025-2026 resulting in a Precept demand from BDC of £11427 (£72 increase). Using the BDC tax base figure of 155.59 resulted in a Band D property figure of £73.44p a £1.56p increase or 2.17%. Cllr M. Posen seconded. **All Agreed**

018/2025 Items for Next Agenda

Clerk to bring SID device to meeting

019/2025 Date of Next Full Council meetings – Monday 17th. March 2025 at 7.30pm

Councillors to note the 2025 meeting dates. 19.05: 21.07: 15.09: 17.11.25

020/2025 Closure of the Meeting

To Close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chair then closed the meeting at 9pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

K Holmes

**Keith Holmes
Chair**

17th. March 2025